

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MINUTES OCTOBER 24, 2016
APPROVED**

BOS Members Present: John G. Petropoulos, Chair; Joshua A. Degen, Vice Chair; Barry Pease, Clerk; Anna Eliot, Member; Peter S. Cunningham, Member

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Mr. Petropoulos called the meeting to order at 5:32pm and reviewed the agenda.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Mr. Pease said that his first suggestion was to discuss adding a policy for what happens to free cash once its certified each year. Ms. Eliot said she thought it warranted a discussion with the Finance Committee. Mr. Cunningham said he thought it was a good idea and thought it made sense to discuss it with the Finance Committee. Mr. Degen said it had been past practice to replenish the stabilization fund and/or capital stabilization to bring reserves back up from spring spending and thought that should be incorporated into a policy. Mr. Petropoulos said it sounded as though they were all in agreement over this.
2. Mr. Pease said that he had questions and concerns about how to handle complaints against municipal employees and didn't think there was a policy in place to handle that. Ms. Eliot said that they were case by case examples but agreed they needed to have a better understanding on how to handle dilemmas. She thought a policy might trip them up. Mr. Cunningham said it could be a policy to handle situations not covered by other procedures. Mr. Petropoulos said it sounded like they all agreed with this.
3. Mr. Pease said that the Clerk was responsible for taking minutes during executive sessions if the Executive Assistant is not able to. He said he didn't think this was a good idea. He said that it hinders that person from being able to participate at the same level as others. Ms. Eliot said she couldn't agree more. Mr. Cunningham said that the Executive Assistant handles most of them. Mr. Pease said that if they decided not to have the Executive Assistant take the minutes they needed to have a mechanism for doing them. Mr. Degen said that most executive session minutes have been covered by Ms. Dunbar and her predecessors adding that maybe audio taping could serve them better in some cases. He said that they could make it a policy in certain situations. Mr. Petropoulos said that they sounded to be all in agreement.
4. Mr. Pease said he thought they needed a policy for the placement of spending articles at the fall town meeting and suggested they use the CPC out of cycle application guidelines as a guide. He said that this had been a discussion on the Finance Committee for a long time. Ms. Eliot suggested they look to their Charter on this. She said that the Charter didn't distinguish between the fall and spring town meetings adding they were considered equal. Mr. Haddad agreed that the Charter called for 2 annual town meetings adding that the 2nd annual town meeting which occurs in the fall could be used to finalize the budget. He said he was really nervous about limiting what they could do at the second town meeting adding this could also put limitations on the tax payers for things like citizen petitions. Mr. Cunningham agreed that he too was nervous about this. He said that this limited the authority of townspeople to have a say and was not in support of changing this. He said that there would always be issues that would come up, such as finalizing the budget. Mr. Petropoulos said that he was in favor of having the discussion and changing the wording to consider developing a policy. Mr. Degen said that they were there to discuss their goals and objectives adding they could develop policies at any time. He was not sure this needed to be a goal. Mr. Petropoulos said that policy development was a goal and a measurable goal. Mr. Cunningham said that the CPC operated within a set of parameters that were tightly constrained. He said that they were elected by the townspeople to make some of these decisions sometimes. The Board decided to talk about it with the Finance Committee but not add it to their goals and objectives.

5. Mr. Pease said that there needed to be a framework or “double check policy” for verifying / validating data before it was presented. Mr. Pease said there was a difference between a draft report and analytical information. Mr. Pease said that this was a policy to make sure information was vetted before it was released to committees and the public. Ms. Eliot said she thought that should be done in the committee that it was being vetted through. Mr. Cunningham said he was having a hard time getting his head around this adding that every source of information from Town Hall should be constructed by everyone. He thought a specialist would be problematic adding that everyone could look at the same data differently. Mr. Degen said he didn’t think this was possible to do. He said he understood the reason but didn’t think it was reality. He said that they didn’t have a statistician in house and thought the cost to have one would be very high. Mr. Degen said he would love this in a perfect world but didn’t see it working. Mr. Petropoulos said he thought this was coming about because of surveys but agreed with everyone else that this was not possible. Mr. Pease vowed that as long as he was there he would continue to look at stuff and see if a policy was needed at a later date.
6. Mr. Pease said that it was his understanding that the office does retain Committee Interest Forms and said they didn’t need to discuss it at this time.
7. Mr. Pease said that he thought there should be a Mission of Town Hall and was not sure they had one. Mr. Ms. Eliot said that town meeting determined their goal adding they were responsible to the voters. Mr. Cunningham said that a mission shouldn’t be limited to Town Hall. He said that they had many departments and each department was going to look at things differently. Mr. Degen said that a mission could be to deliver services to the tax payers according to the law. Mr. Petropoulos said that they could go through the exercise of establishing a mission and all operate under that mission. Mr. Pease said that the second part to that was what the vision was and what they want Groton to be. He said that you couldn’t run any organization successfully without a mission and vision. Ms. Eliot said that she would like Groton to become a cultural destination adding that they had a master plan, which the public was involved in and identified what Groton should be. The Board agreed to add this as an objective.
8. Mr. Pease said he would like to see them change from the way of thinking of what has been done to what can be done. He said that they should champion transparency and trust and take everything that is brought up and turn it into a real benefit to the town and taxpayers. Mr. Haddad asked what the goal was. Mr. Degen agreed with the thought and asked how it would be defined. Mr. Cunningham said that it might fall under the operational audit and would be in favor of revisiting it once the audit was done. Ms. Eliot said that this kind of thinking was one of her goals. Mr. Petropoulos said he thought it was very hard to do anything with this and couldn’t imagine putting this into an objective. Mr. Pease said he would bring this back another year.
9. Mr. Pease said that he wanted to see them define where they want to be in the next 3 months, in 1 year, and in 5 years. Mr. Petropoulos said that they could develop a planning subcommittee to develop a strategic plan. Ms. Eliot said she was leery of this. Mr. Degen said he could support a strategic planning committee. Mr. Cunningham thought that a committee would discover that this work was going on in many of the other committees they had but didn’t see any harm in capturing that. Mr. Degen said that this committee could consolidate information from other committees. Ms. Eliot said she didn’t want to take credit away from those other committees that were doing this work already and was concerned about how this would be perceived. Mr. Pease said that this all tied into one of his other points and the need for cultural change. Mr. Degen said he could support this but needed to hear a better definition. There were no objections with moving this forward.
10. Mr. Pease said that he would like to see them try to go paperless wherever possible. He said that it was a cost savings and time they did this. Mr. Degen said that there were some legal requirements they had to adhere to but supported this fully. Mr. Cunningham said that he was not willing to give up his workbook

adding he liked paper. He said he didn't think this needed to be a goal but something they could work toward.

11. Mr. Pease said that they were on track with a municipal audit but wanted to define some parameters. He said he would like to see them go to a change agent culture which was something that needed to come from leadership. He said he would like to see some action, 50% of a first phase implementation, taken on the audit by April 2017. Mr. Degen said that they were going to have an audit and wanted to agree with Mr. Pease on the date given but wasn't sure if that was going to be a reachable goal. Mr. Pease said he didn't want to see this sit and collect dust. Mr. Petropoulos suggested a goal be that they conduct a municipal audit and create an implementation and strategy plan within X months of the receiving audit. He said that was something they could control. Mr. Cunningham said he wanted to know what the outcome of the audit was first. Mr. Pease said that he would accept 3 months even though he would like to be more aggressive. Mr. Degen said he could accept this without a date specified at this time.
12. Mr. Pease said he would like to see them develop a guideline for when the Country Club would become an enterprise fund. Mr. Cunningham asked what the threshold for that was. Mr. Haddad said that he was personally opposed to making them enterprise fund adding they hadn't gotten to a point of seeing whether it was sustainable. He said he would like to see if their three-year plan works out first. Mr. Degen said that they could adopt under a goal to continue working on the three-year plan of making it sustainable. Mr. Pease said he would also like to see them break out the Country Club in the budget so it was under its own line item and not under Library and Citizen Services. Mr. Petropoulos said that Mr. Haddad could break that out. Mr. Haddad said that they could vote it separately at Town Meeting.
13. Mr. Pease said that he wanted to see them drive, sponsor, and/or identify technological advances into their daily work. Mr. Petropoulos asked what a measurable objective would be. Mr. Pease said that they could identify 2 IT projects they could drive into reality in the Town. Mr. Cunningham said that Mr. Haddad could develop goals and objectives with IT director in depth during his evaluation. Mr. Haddad said that one goal last year was building security adding they did this at the department level adding this sounded like Mr. Pease wanted to see this done department wide. Mr. Pease said it showed they were working toward better technology. Mr. Degen suggested setting up a meeting with the IT Director to discuss this further. Mr. Pease said that he was the liaison and could meet with him on some of his ideas.
14. Mr. Pease said that Groton should apply for a regionalization grant under the community compact. Mr. Degen said that this was something they needed to do. There was no objection to this.
15. Mr. Pease suggested that the Board read the book "The 5 Dysfunctions of a Team" and critique each other in a work session. Mr. Petropoulos said that he could not sign up for this adding he was way too short on time. Mr. Pease said that he could not sit through another dysfunctional Board of Selectmen meeting. Mr. Petropoulos said that prescribing reading to co-workers may be going too far. Mr. Degen said that he was not in favor of developing this into a goal. Mr. Pease said that they should also try to attend one MMA or MSA conference per year. He said he thought it was beneficial and allowed them to interact with others in their same positions. Mr. Degen said that he could support this as a goal.
16. Mr. Pease said that he found areas within the Mass Modernization Act which they could adopt. It was suggested that they work with the Town Manager on this.
17. Mr. Pease said he would like to see the Board develop town budget priorities. Ms. Eliot said that she agreed with this goal adding they tended to do this. Mr. Cunningham said that this could get touchy when you say one's budget was more important than another. Mr. Pease agreed adding this required leadership. Mr. Degen said he understood but saw this as tough. Mr. Pease said this was why he thought this needed to be developed. Mr. Degen said he was not willing to go down this road. Mr. Petropoulos asked what they were saying if they were to rank departments. Mr. Pease said that if they needed to make cuts they would know

where their priorities were. He said that this was not easy and was very challenging but if they were to predetermine this it could be used as a tool when making tough decisions. Mr. Petropoulos said he didn't see them capable of doing this and didn't see a practical application of it. Mr. Pease said he was nervous to do this.

18. Mr. Pease said that he would like to see them work with the School District collaboratively to work toward a budget that didn't require an override. Mr. Cunningham said that their goal was to go to town meeting with a budget that didn't require an override. Mr. Degen said that he wanted to go to Town Meeting without an override budget, however the funding mechanisms may require them to go to Town Meeting for an override. He said it was something they could aspire to it but there were no guarantees. Mr. Petropoulos said that he couldn't sign up for a goal that set an arbitrary line in the sand.
19. Mr. Pease said that he would like to see them work with the Finance Committee to review budget guidance. He said he wanted to challenge the 1.5% for the rainy-day fund adding there was no point to adding more money at some point. Mr. Petropoulos said that their financial policies were reviewed last year adding they often did periodic review of them. Mr. Haddad said that their goal here should be to annually review the financial policies of the Town.

Mr. Haddad said that because of the time, he would schedule another goals and objectives meeting to further discuss the Board's goals for the next year.

7:00 PM - Regular Meeting commenced.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Pease said that early voting started that day and encourage voters to take advantage of it.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad asked the Board to ratify his appointment of James Perego to the Trails Committee.

Ms. Eliot moved to ratify the appointment. Mr. Haddad said that the term expiration date would be June 30, 2017. Mr. Pease seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Mr. Haddad said that Town Meeting voted on Monday to have the Town Manager appoint a seven (7) member Committee to work with the Architect to determine the feasibility of moving the Senior Center to Prescott School. He said that according to the vote at Town Meeting, the Committee should be made up of four (4) members from the current COA Feasibility Oversight Committee and three (3) members from the former Municipal Building Committee for Prescott School. Mr. Haddad said that based on this, he was asking the Board to ratify the appointments of the following individuals: Peter Cunningham, Mihran Keoseian, Gary Green and John Amaral from the Feasibility Oversight Committee and Halsey Platt, Annika Nilsson-Ripps and Greg Sheldon of the former Municipal Building Committee.

Ms. Eliot moved to ratify the appointments.

Mr. Degen asked what the charge was. Mr. Haddad said that the Town Meeting vote didn't give them a charge. He said that he had scheduled a meeting for Friday morning with his proposed Committee, should the Board ratify the appointments that evening, to develop a charge and look at what the next steps are so they can be brought to the Board for consideration. Mr. Degen said that he thought the Board should develop the initial charge. Mr. Cunningham said he thought it made sense for members of committee to provide some further definition and present it to the Board adding the Committee would report back to Town Meeting. Mr. Petropoulos said he thought Town Meeting does a lot of things really well but does not do so well with prescribing practice. He said that the basis of this suggestion was to provide relief from discussion. He said that people largely rejected study adding that enough people said they didn't like how

the Committee got here. He thought that if they were to do this they would be following one mistake with another. Mr. Cunningham disagreed adding that there was simply information people were not aware of. He said that an extensive needs analysis was done adding that Town Meeting gave them some direction and the Committee could come back with a charge. Mr. Petropoulos compared this to the sewer project adding they needed to see what their real objective was first. He said that there were glaring issues with the site assessment. Mr. Cunningham said that anyone could look at the scoring and come to different conclusions. He said that Town Meeting was clear in that they wanted Prescott to be looked at further adding they needed to respond to what Town Meeting said to do. Mr. Pease said he thought when the draft report came out a lot of people felt as though there were holes in it. He said that they now had a new process and a new committee. He said that he thought there was a bias in this Committee in that it was made up of former members of committees. He thought that this was now tainted adding he was not going to ratify any of these appointments because of that. Mr. Petropoulos said he agreed. Mr. Degen agreed also adding they he could see having one member from each committee but they needed 5 new faces. Mr. Cunningham said he found it remarkable that they were telling Town Meeting to take a hike. Mr. Petropoulos suggested that they amend or supplement this with a supplemental committee. Mr. Haddad said that Town Meeting gave him direction and the reason he was bringing this to the Board. Mr. Cunningham asked if they could get an opinion from Town Counsel and what authority they have to override Town Meeting.

Mr. Hargraves said that the Town Manager was spot on adding he takes instruction from Town Meeting very seriously. Mr. Degen said that Mr. Hargraves point was well taken adding that if Mr. Haddad were to bring him a proposed charge, he would consider ratifying the individuals. Mr. Haddad read the vote of Town Meeting adding it didn't appear to him that they were limited to looking at just Prescott but that it had to be those 7 members. Mr. Degen suggested they run the charge by Town Counsel to see if it was applicable to all sites. Mr. Haddad said it would help to work with the Committee to continue to define the charge. Mr. Petropoulos said that no one was talking about disrespecting the vote of Town Meeting. Mr. Cunningham objected adding that Mr. Petropoulos was trying to manipulate a process that Town Meeting dictated. Mr. Cunningham said that a lot of work had been done by a number of people adding they needed to do a better job communicating the work that had been done. Mr. Petropoulos suggested they take a week to sit back and think about it and bring back to this discussion how they would like to fulfill Town Meetings requirements. Mr. Degen asked if there was a time stated. Mr. Haddad said that no date was given. Mr. Cunningham said that Mr. Haddad would obtain an opinion from Town Counsel.

Mr. Sheldon said that he was happy to hear there were forums scheduled to be able to ask questions. Mr. Amaral said he understood the different positions and opinions but wanted to let people know that before every meeting they had they talked about leaving their biases at the door. He said their only mission was to come up with what was best for the senior citizens in town. He said that they would never get 100% consensus for a project but did want people to know that the Committee was 100% involved and committed in this project and would take responsibility for any holes in the process.

Mr. Haddad said he would get an opinion from Town Counsel.

3. Mr. Haddad said that the Invasive Species Committee had requested that the Board appoint Great Marks-Strouble to their Committee.

Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint Great Marks-Strouble to the Invasive Species Committee term to end June 30, 2017. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Mr. Haddad said that the vacancy on the Finance Committee had a term expiration of June 30, 2018. He said that he invited all 3 candidates to the meeting.
Ms. Jessica Madoc-Jones thanked the Board for having interviewed her adding she didn't have much to add. She said she thought Mr. Sjoberg, the Finance Committee's recommended candidate, would make a great addition with his expertise.

Mr. Jon Sjoberg said that the Board had had an opportunity to work with him adding that the other 2 candidates had extensive knowledge in this area. Mr. Degen said that he heard a different perspective with from Mr. Bonakdar and ways he could do things with different ideas. He asked Mr. Sjoberg what he thought he could do. Mr. Sjoberg said that he did not do this for a living but said that he had served on the School Committee and could bring that experience. He said that people thought he was going to drive everything toward the schools but that was not his intent. Mr. Degen asked about his understanding of burn rates. Mr. Sjoberg said he understood burn rates and cash flow and that they show up on a book.

Mr. Pease said that the Finance Committee had made a recommendation and didn't think it was okay for them to tell the Committee who had to be on their team. He said he thought it would be wrong of them if they didn't take their recommendation. He said he didn't like that people were right in that there was no separation between the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen. Mr. Cunningham said that whether they like it or not that was how the Charter was written. He said that he could not recall one time when they had not approved a recommendation from the Finance Committee or any other committee. Mr. Degen said to Mr. Pease that they were the appointing authority and they had the right to ignore the Finance Committee guidance. Mr. Petropoulos said that allowing the Finance Committee to choose their own members was like Congress voting their own members. He said that any entity appointing their own members allowed them to dictate their direction. Mr. Pease said that this was why people wanted separation. Mr. Prest pointed out that it was 4-2 vote adding the Committee went along with the majority.

Mr. Haddad, after tallying the Board's votes, said that there were 3 votes for Mr. Sjoberg and 2 votes for Mr. Bonakdar. Mr. Cunningham said that he voted for Mr. Sjoberg because he brought good expertise and because he supported the Finance Committee's recommendation. Mr. Degen said that he voted for Mr. Bonakdar because he had served on the Chelmsford Finance Committee and because he thought it was time for a new face adding he was a new resident to Town. Mr. Petropoulos said he also voted for Mr. Bonakdar adding that he would like to work with Mr. Sjoberg but was eager to see what Mr. Bonakdar could bring. Mr. Pease said that he clearly articulated by his vote. Ms. Eliot said that that she voted for Jon but hoped that Mr. Bonakdar would reapply if there was an opening. She added that she needed to respect the Finance Committee's recommendation.

Mr. Pease moved to appoint Jon Sjoberg to the Finance Committee with a term to expire June 30, 2018. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTIONS

128 Main Street, LLC – Mr. Degen asked if a 21E had been performed because of contaminated soils there. Ms. Collette said that one had been done and the contaminated soil had been removed. She added that an LSP had signed off on it. Ms. Cunningham asked where the soil would go. Mr. Amaral said that a destination had not been determined yet. Mr. Degen said that the conditions did not preclude weekends. Ms. Collette said that the bylaw stated Monday through Friday. Mr. Degen asked Mr. Amaral if he was okay with Monday through Friday. Mr. Amaral said that they were. Ms. Eliot said that she was curious about why the Town declined the soil. Ms. Collette said that the soil was a sandy gravel and had limited use. Ms. Eliot asked if they had a provision that top soil not leave the town. Ms. Collette said there was not one adding that this was an exemption and material related to construction was what they were looking at. Mr. Petropoulos asked if there were appropriate dust control measures in place. Ms. Collette said that keeping everything moist was preferred adding that measures were not dictated. She added that annual rye was recommended as a condition.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve a Certificate of Exemption to 128 Main Street, LLC to remove up to 8,000 cy of material at 128 Main Street with conditions outlined by Michelle Collette, Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector in her letter to the Board dated October 19, 2016. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Music Center at Indian Hill – Mr. Haddad read the conditions outlined in Ms. Collette’s letter to the Board adding that after speaking to Mr. Degen earlier that day, Mr. Degen would like to add a condition that this be subject to Planning Board approval. Ms. Collette said that there was another condition that if excess material could not be used by the DPW, the applicant may remove to properties under the same ownership. The project engineer said that the material was coming from the building area. He said that because of a building height of 68-70 feet for the performance hall they had to sink the building in the ground considerably. Mr. Cunningham asked if this being contingent on Planning Board approval affected their plans. The engineer said it did not adding they had a few permits to obtain still. Mr. Degen asked what size trucks they were using. Mr. Gary Shephard said that to move the material to the adjacent sites, they would use 30 ton off road trucks and material leaving the site would be removed with 10-wheeler triaxle or trailer dump trucks. Mr. Degen asked how much was going to the adjacent lots. Mr. Shephard answered approximately 50,000 cy. He said that they had tried to estimate over the next 2 years how they could manage this. He said that they would be looking at moving 3-4 trucks or 6-10 loads per day. Mr. Degen said that they would probably be impacting the public roads and asked if they were putting up any bonds. Mr. Shephard said that Mr. Delaney said he was intending on improving that road but would wait until the project was completed. Mr. Degen asked if access would be limited to Old Ayer Road. Mr. Shephard said “yes.” Mr. Degen asked if they were planning to keep truck traffic off Higley and Peabody Street. Mr. Shephard said that if they were going West with the material for Mr. Delaney were they being asked to use Main Street. Mr. Degen said that was correct adding that Peabody Street was a residential neighborhood that didn’t want trucks going through it. He said he didn’t want trucks going down Peabody Street adding he wasn’t in favor of this phased approach either. Mr. Shephard said that he was at the mercy of the Town to say what they would allow and not allow. He said that from their perspective a phased process had helped them to make things accurate. Mr. Shephard said that the bulk of material was a till material not a topsoil adding that the topsoil was not leaving Groton. Mr. Petropoulos asked how many trucks would be going down Higley Street. Mr. Shephard said about 5 loads a day or 10 trips or passes per day. He said that on multiple days he had been on site he had witnessed large trucks, not theirs, driving down that road. He said he didn’t want to instigate but they didn’t have responsibility for all those trucks. He said that Peabody and Higley was not the best route and it was not their intent to disrupt the residential neighborhood. Ms. Collette said that in the stormwater permit for phase one there was a condition that only the construction entrance on Old Ayer Road would be used. She said that this had been very well respected since their time on the site.

Mr. Steve Robertson said he appreciated everything they were doing but his main concern if there was anything they could do to stay on site adding there were no weekend restrictions listed. Mr. Haddad said that the bylaw stated work Monday-Friday unless the Board said otherwise.

Mr. Cunningham said he was prepared to go forward on this contingent on site plan approval by Planning Board. Mr. Degen asked if they were hauling already. Mr. Shephard said that they had been hauling debris from the old house and brining in crushed material for the ring road. Mr. Cunningham said that a traffic study would be done but they were not addressing that that night. He said he had heard that there would not be a lot of Peabody Street traffic being generated by this because most of the material would go down Old Ayer Road to Cow Pond Brook Road. Mr. Degen said he would be okay with this if they were limited to 5 round trips per day on Peabody Street. He said that where nothing was being removed right now there was no need to move on this right now.

Mr. Cunningham moved to grant a Certificate of Exemption submitted by Indian Hill Music to remove up to 80,000 cy with conditions as cited in a letter from Michelle Collette, Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector, dated October 19, 2016 and with the addition of a condition that this permit be subject to project approval by the Planning Board. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion.

Mr. Pease said that because this was his first major exemption he had read the bylaw. He said that the majority of the material would be moved to the adjacent lot according to the applicant adding they were not talking about impact to the roads. He said that this had changed from what he originally thought. He said that there was no bond in place for Peabody Street and there was a lot of challenges he wasn’t ready to discuss. Ms. Collette said that an exemption was being sought. She said that under case laws, any construction activity was allowed to remove excess from site.

She said that it was up to the applicant to prove excess adding they had the right to remove excess from property for construction. She said that the Board was agreeing that this qualified as an exemption under the bylaw.

Mr. Degen offered an amendment to Mr. Cunningham's motion that they be limited to 6 loads per day. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the amendment. Mr. Cunningham said he would accept the amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

GD High School – Mr. Petropoulos stepped down for this discussion. Mr. Haddad read the conditions. Mr. Degen asked if the plan had been vetted by anyone other than the Committee. Ms. Collette said that an FOI was submitted by the applicant and the ERSWAC was the only committee that had any jurisdiction. She said that the School Committee was reviewing the plan the following week. Mr. Degen asked if they could make this permit subject to subject to School Committee approval. Mr. Haddad asked why they would need to do that if this School Committee was the applicant.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve GD@Play to remove 5,100 cy of material for construction of a new turf field. He said that the motion would include all conditions in the letter from Michelle Collette, Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector to the Board dated October 19, 2016 including a condition that this be contingent on approval by the School Committee. Mr. Pease seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Mr. Petropoulos rejoined the meeting.

5. Mr. Robertson said that he was concerned about the Board being the one to review the operational audit RFP proposals. He said that he served on the Districts committee which 7 members from various committees and boards had reviewed theirs. He said that the group felt it was a good cross reference to look at this and asked how this decision came about. He said that a committee made up of just Selectmen was not independent or diverse and because of the importance of this he felt as though they should have outside people looking at this. Mr. Haddad said that the Board voted they would be the screening committee. Mr. Robertson said that he thought this was a huge mistake. Mr. Degen said that this was their RFP adding they were not moldy cream cheese. Mr. Degen asked at what point did they get to exercise their own expertise. Mr. Petropoulos said he thought it was fool hearty of them to choose their own evaluators. Mr. Pease said that he was biased and the point was well taken but said they were going to ultimately be the ones to make the decision. Mr. Cunningham said that this was driven by the desire to have an independent analysis of town operations. He said that there was going to be participation by members of town government and saw no reason they couldn't integrate other members in looking at the recommendations. He said that they were looking to see which vendor would do the best job for the town. Ms. Eliot said that she didn't mind having others look at these and provide input. Mr. Robertson said that he was concerned the Town would look at this and say it wasn't done independently. Mr. Degen asked if they could give these proposals to the Budget Sustainability Committee and Finance Committee to review them and ask them to provide feedback. Mr. Haddad recommended they interview all 4 firms and invite those committees to attend the interviews. Mr. Degen said they could deliberate after they are interviewed. Mr. Pease said he appreciated that but didn't want to waste his time with a few of them. Mr. Petropoulos thought that defining a group to do this was the right way of doing things. He asked how long they had to respond. Mr. Haddad said 30 days unless they ask for an extension. Mr. Petropoulos agreed it was a waste of time to interview all of them.

Mr. Degen said that they were looking for 2 citizen at large members for this committee. Mr. Haddad said that he would ask for extensions of the proposals. The committee would be made up of 3 members of the Board of Selectmen, 1 Finance Committee member, 1 Budget Sustainability Committee member and 2 citizens at large.

Mr. Degen made that motion. Ms. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Degen, Mr. Petropoulos and Mr. Pease expressed interest in serving.

6. Mr. Haddad said that he would like to request permission from the Board to adjust the hours of Town Hall on Halloween to close at 4pm but stay open on wither Tuesday or Wednesday till 7pm. The Board decided to move their meeting to Wednesday 11/2 and Town Hall would be open till 7pm on that day.

TOWN HALL HOURS

Mr. Haddad said he met with employees after meeting with Mr. Degen earlier that that. The employees recommended that because the public was used to night hours on Monday's that on weeks with holidays on Mondays the Town Hall remain open on Friday till 4pm. Mr. Degen said he was trying to balance taxpayer and use equity. He said he thought this was a compromise and solved that issue. Mr. Cunningham said that they had discussed this at a previous meeting and thought they agreed to wait for the operational audit. He asked what the significant new information was for them to discuss this again. Mr. Pease said that he was willing to concede that they are not making a structural change just adjusting hours on those holiday weeks. Mr. Pease said that speaking as a parent he understood that there needed to be consistency. Mr. Pease said that he was in favor of the resolution. Mr. Petropoulos said that he would like to see this brought back to allow time for feedback.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Cunningham said that the Complete Street had their first meeting. He said it was a good group adding they spent time prioritizing.

MINUTES

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the minutes of September 12, 2016. Mr. Pease seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the minutes of September 19, 2016. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the minutes of September 26, 2016. Mr. Pease seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Cunningham abstaining.

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the minutes of October 4, 2016. Mr. Pease seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Cunningham abstaining.

Mr. Degen moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:38pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved: _____
Barry Pease, Clerk

respectfully *submitted*,
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 11/14/16